

Rights Hall of Fame Games. In addition to his degree from North Carolina Central University, Don graduated with an M.S. degree from Indiana University in 1967 and earned an advanced degree from Purdue University in 1976. Don, now seventy years old, plans to continue his daily regimen of walking at least two miles every morning. He also wants to spend more time with his wife, Barbara, their two daughters, Sandra and Cynthia, and his stepson, Cromwell O'Brien.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Don Leeks for his lifetime of service, leadership, and rededication to Gary and Northwest Indiana. Don's efforts as Athletic Director for the School City of Gary are legendary as one tool among many serving to help students stay motivated in the classroom. Don has rewarded the people of his community with true leadership and uncompromising dedication.

TRIBUTE TO GRADUATES AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVERS OF THE 12TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 1998

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating special graduates of the 12th Congressional District of New York. I am certain that this day marks the culmination of much effort and hard work which has led and will lead them to continued success. In these times of uncertainty, limited resources, and random violence in our communities and schools, it is encouraging to know that they have overcome these obstacles and succeeded.

These students have learned that education is priceless. They understand that education is the tool to new opportunities and greater endeavors. Their success is not only a tribute to their strength but also to the support they have received from their parents and loved ones.

In closing, I encourage all my colleagues to support the education of the youth of America. With a solid education, today's youth will be tomorrow's leaders. And as we approach the new millennium, it is our responsibility to pave the road for this great Nation's future. Members of the U.S. House of Representatives I ask you to join me in congratulating the following Academic Achievement Award Recipients:

Rafael Feliciano and Shaquana Anderson—P.S. 16; Joseph Santos and Angeline Hidalgo—P.S. 18; Kristoffer Cortes and Christie Santana—P.S. 19; Jose Oquendo and Cindy Rivas—P.S. 49; Myrna Adana and Angela Morales—I.S. 71; Imari Valentin and Gilbert Feliciano—P.S. 84; Andrew Malave and Gabriel Martinez—P.S. 147; Miriam Aponte and Amanda Rodriguez—P.S. 196; Desiree Cardona and Michael Curchar—P.S. 250; Ralph Wilson and Cheetara Little—P.S. 257; Valerio Aguilar and Hugo Rios—P.S. 380; Lauren Cruz and John Bigolski—I.S. 318; and Xiomara Adames and Jose Castro—J.H.S. 50.

Vanessa Rodriguez and Victor Gavela—Beginning With Children School; Abner Aponte and Cesarina Lopez—Eastern District Senior Academy; Julian Blumberg and Jazlyn

Duran—All Saints R.C. School; Jamie Inez Hernandez and Adam Valentin—Most Holy Trinity School; Lauren Teresa and Ana Castro—St. Nicholas R.C. School; Gwen Cruz and Desiree Ortiz—St. Peter & Paul R.C. School; Jacqueline Duran and Adrian Jimenez—Transfiguration School.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4101) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise in reluctant opposition to the Dooley amendment.

Mr. DOOLEY has been the chief proponent of increased resources going to agriculture research, and he labored mightily within his committee and at the conference committee on the recently-passed ag research bill, which was signed this morning by the President.

He knows as I do that research has always been the key to U.S. ag productivity and that as we turn to a more market-oriented ag economy, ag research will be even more important in sustaining the U.S. lead in this field.

California's specialty crop agriculture has known this for many years.

One key to our success has been market promotion with such successful programs such as the Market Access Program, but we have a very close relationship with the research going on at our ag schools and getting those results into the field.

Formula funds for our land-grant schools are important.

The competitive funds within the National Research Initiative are important.

We hope the new initiatives—such as the Fund for Rural America and now the new research program in the ag research bill—will play an important role in the future in putting additional resources into research—the committee has been chagrined this year at having to look to these new and promising initiatives for offsets in order to make our bill whole.

But special research grants are also important to our overall research effort.

These are cooperative efforts between industry and our research institutions.

Unlike competitive research which is wholly government funded, industry is making significant contributions—typically 50%—to these limited-duration agriculture projects affecting commodities of local or regional importance.

But Mr. DOOLEY does us a real service with his amendment in pointing out the real difficulties we are struggling with in every bill this year.

These are difficult choices, and the committee had a Hobbesian choice in either letting

the new ag research program go forward or making cuts in virtually every other agricultural program in our bill.

Unfortunately, the amendment presents another difficult choice in determining the direction of our ag research efforts—whether to abandon the special research initiatives which have traditionally served us well in order to move a new research initiative forward.

I appreciate Mr. DOOLEY raising these important issues—in the field of ag research, there is no legislator who has labored longer or has greater standing to comment on these issues.

Although I reluctantly oppose him today, I know that together we will be doing all we can to see that agricultural research gets the resources that pay off so mightily for our nation.

THE REFORESTATION TAX ACT

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 24, 1998

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, the Reforestation Tax Act, that will lower the tax burden on timber assets that are managed in a sustainable and environmentally sound fashion.

Last year, Congress took a major step toward reducing the Federal tax burden on millions of Americans, eliminating the deficit, restoring greater fiscal integrity to the budget process and, in the process bringing a measure of greater equity to the tax code. Most importantly, we sought to encourage savings, to promote sustained, long-term growth, and to immediately reduce the tax burden of Americans by lowering the tax on capital gains.

The Reforestation Tax Act recognizes the unique nature of growing trees by reducing the amount of gain subject to capital gains by 3 percent each year a timber asset is held up to a maximum of 50 percent. Most importantly, it would apply this tax rate to all taxpayers, individuals as well as corporations. In this manner, we would avoid the inequity we have today whereby neighboring tracks of the same timber are taxed at different rates simply because of the business form of their investments (i.e. one is owned by a small group of investors while another is owned by a larger group of public investors).

Besides ensuring fairness, the Reforestation Tax Act will encourage sound forestry practices that keep our environment healthy for the future. Currently, industrial timberlands help reduce demand for timber from public lands while generally being managed according to principles of sustainable forestry. Moreover, by sequestering carbon, managed forests help to offset emissions that contribute to the "greenhouse effect". Unfortunately, today's high tax burden on forest assets runs counter to our commitment to preserving and investing in the environment. This bill would encourage reforestation—or reinvestment in the environment—by extending tax credits for all reforestation expenses and shortening the amortization period for reforestation costs. As we consider policies to counteract global warming and improve water quality, we need to encourage sound forestry practices. It is this kind of approach that assures our tax policies take